Many that have at times made mone to me,
Therefore he hates me.
Sal. I am sure the Duke will never grant
This forfeiture to hold.
Ant. The Duke cannot deny the course of Law:
For the Commodity that strangers have
With us in *Venice*, if it be denyed,
Will much impeach the justice of the state,
Since that the Trade and Profit of the Citie
Consisteth of all Nations. Therefore go,
These griefes and losses hath so bated me
That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
To morrow, to my bloudy Creditor.
Well Iaylor on, pray God *Bassanio* come
To see me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*

Enter Portia, Nerrissa, Lorenzo, Jessica, *and a man of* Portia's.

Lor. Madam, although I speak it in your presence,
You have a noble and a true conceit
Of gold-like amitie, which appeares most strongly
In bearing thus the absence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you shew this honour,
How true a Gentleman you send relieefe,
How deere a Lover of my Lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the worke,
Then customary bounty can enforce you.
Por. I never did repent for doing good,
Nor shall not now: for in companions
That do converse and wast the time together,
Whose soules do beare an equall yoke of love,
There must be needs a like proportion
Of lyniaments, of manners, and of spirit;
Which makes me thinke that this *Anthonio*
Being the bosome Lover of my Lord,
Must needs be like my Lord. If it be so,
How little is the cost I have bestowed

In purchasing the semblance of my soule;
From out the state of hellish cruelty:
This comes too neere the praising of my selfe,
Therefore no more of it. heere other things
Lorenso I commit into your hands,
The husbandry and mannage of my house,
Untill my Lords returne: for mine own part
I have toward heaven breath'd a secret vow,
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Onely attended by *Nerrissa* here,
Untill her husband and my Lords returne.
There is a Monastery two miles off,
And there we will abide. I do desire you
Not to deny this imposition,
The which my Love, and some necessity
Now layes upon me.
Loren. Madame, with all my heart,
I shall obey you in all faire commands.
Por. My people do already know my mind,
And will acknowledge you and *Iessica*
In place of Lord *Bassanio* and my selfe.
So fare you well till we shall meet again.
Lor. Faire thoughts and happy houres attend on you.
Iessi. I wish your Ladiship all hearts content.
Por. I thank you for your wish, and am well pleasd
To wish it back on you: fare you well *Iessica*. *Exeunt.*
Now *Balthaser*, as I have ever found thee honest true,
So let me find thee still: take this same letter,
And use thou all th'endevour of a man,
In speed to *Mantua*, see thou render this
Into my cousins hand Doctor *Belario*,
And look what notes and garments he doth give thee,
Bring them I pray thee with imagin'd speed
Unto the Traiect, to the common Ferry
Which Trades to *Venice*; waste no time in word
But get thee gone, I shall be there before thee.
Baltha. Madam, I go with all convenient speed.
Por. Come on *Nerrissa*, I have worke in hand